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Phonological characteristics of Japanese-derived borrowings in the Trukese of Micronesia

Shinji SANADA
Osaka University

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Abstract

This report focuses on the Trukese as it is used on the lagoon islands of Truk in the Federated States of Micronesia, giving a list of the Japanese borrowings with their phonological characteristics, analyzing the sound substitutions which occurred as the Japanese borrowings passed through the Trukese phonological filter.

1. Introduction

For the past several years, we have been involved in language surveys of the lagoon islands of Truk in the Federated States of Micronesia.¹

The Japanese colonial rule of these islands lasted from 1914 to 1945. During that time, the language contact situation of the islands was conducive to the incorporation of borrowings into the native language from Japanese. Among the Japanese-derived borrowings in use today, there still survive many words which have disappeared, at least from common use, in the language of Japan (Sanada 1996).

2. Borrowings from Japanese

We constructed a list of Japanese-derived loanwords from the dictionary of Ward H. Goodenough and Hiroshi Sugita (1980). Some of the entries in this dictionary have their origins clearly labelled. For example, we can see that baseball terms were borrowed from Japanese words which had been in turn borrowed from English. We have listed a total of 283 words which, although not marked as to their origin, are clearly words of Japanese origin.

In Trukese, nouns can be made into (transitive) verbs by adding the suffix *-ni* or *-i*. Below are some examples of nouns borrowed from Japanese which can be made

into verbs through this process.

[tajiku] <carpenter> + [ni] ⇒ [tajiku:ni] <do carpentry on>
[teŋki] <electric light> + [ni] ⇒ [teŋki:ni] <give light to>
[tfo:sa] <investigation> + [ni] ⇒ [tfo:sa:ni] <investigate>
[sasiŋ] <picture> + [i] ⇒ [sasiŋi:] <take a picture of>
[unteŋ] <driving> + [i] ⇒ [unteŋi:] <drive(an automobile)>

There are 29 verbs of this type included in the dictionary. If we do not consider them as primary borrowings, we are left with 254 words.

We took these lexical items and presented them to our informant, asking him to choose the words which were still in use. We also recorded (in August 1995) the informant's pronunciations of the words in Trukese. Lexical items are given in the appendix at the end of this paper.

3. Informant

Our informant was Mr. Joshua Suka, born August 26th, 1927 on the island of Udot, one of the Truk Island chain. On the island he received 5 years of elementary school education under Japanese teachers. Until the Japanese surrender to the United States in 1945, he worked at a name stamp shop run by Japanese people on the island of Dublon. Following the war, he learned English on his own, and taught drafting at high school. At the time of the survey, he was retired and living on the island of Dublon.

Mr. Suka is one of the rare examples of people of his age on the islands who can read and write English and Japanese.

4. Analysis of sound substitution

In the language contact situation between Japanese and Trukese, Japanese is the source language and Trukese the recipient language. In the transfer process from the source language into the recipient language, there is always interference from the latter. Below, I will analyze examples of sound substitution which resulted when Japanese words were borrowed through a Trukese phonetic filter (Sugita 1989).

4.1. Vowel length

Word-final vowel length is unstable. When a word adds a suffix, the final vowel lengthens, as seen in the examples below.

[inaka] → [inaka:] ⟨rural place⟩

[sense:] → [sense] ⟨teacher⟩

[sense:ni] ⟨be a teacher of (a class)⟩

[kadʒi] → [kasi] ⟨steering wheel⟩

[kasi:ni] ⟨steer (a boat)⟩

[renfu:] → [rensu] ⟨practice⟩

[rensu:ni] ⟨help someone to practice⟩

4.2. The h-reduction

The /h/ of Japanese words disappears in borrowings due to Trukese phonological rules.

[haŋkatʃi] → [aŋkatʃi] ⟨handkerchief⟩

[happjo:] → [appijo] ⟨announcement⟩

[hatake] → [atake] ⟨plantation⟩

[ho:muraN] → [o:mrəŋ] ⟨home run (in baseball)⟩

[ho:tai] → [o:taji] ⟨bandage⟩

4.3. Devoicing of voiced consonants

The [b,d,dz,g] of Japanese are devoiced to become [p,t,tʃ,k] in Trukese. This lack of a voiced/voiceless distinction, from the standpoint of the source language under differentiation, is also due to restrictions imposed by the phonological structure of Trukese.

[b] → [p]

[bariki] → [pariki] ⟨horsepower⟩

[nabe] → [nape] ⟨cooking pan⟩

[obi] → [opi] ⟨sash worn around the waist⟩

[umebosi] → [umeposi] ⟨pickled plum⟩

[abura] → [apura] ⟨grease⟩

[d] → [t]

[daŋŋo] → [taŋŋo] ⟨dumplings cooked in hot sugared water⟩

[dentʃi] → [tentʃi] <battery (as in a flashlight)>

[ido] → [ito] <well>

[dz] [dʒ] → [tʃ]

[dzampan] → [tʃampan] <garbage>

[gaɪdze] → [kaɪtʃe] <gauze>

[dzo:ri] → [tʃo:ri] <zori type of footwear>

[dzurui] → [tʃuri:] <cheat>

[dʒaŋken] → [tʃaŋke] <game of scissors-stone-cloth>

[dʒido:ʃa] → [tʃito:sa] <automobile>

[dʒo:riku] → [tʃo:riku] <landing in force>

[kikandʒu:] → [kikantʃu] <machine gun>

[g] → [k]

[gasorin] → [kasorin] <gasoline>

[geŋkan] → [keŋkan] <room at the main entrance to a house>

[gittʃo] → [kittʃo] <left-handed person>

[goro] → [koro] <grounder (in baseball)>

[guro:bu] → [kuro:pu] <baseball glove>

The word-medial velar nasal [ŋ] in Japanese, however, is not devoiced, remaining [ŋ] in Trukese borrowings.

[meŋane] → [meŋane] <spectacles, glasses>

[maŋŋa] → [maŋŋa] <farce, comedy>

4.4. Depalatization

The pronunciation of Japanese palatized consonants changes. For example, the palatals of [ʃa], [ʃi], [ʃo], and [ʃu] become alveo-dentals producing [sa], [si], [so], and [su]. With the palatized [kjo] [rjo], vowels are inserted before the palatal to form [kijo] and [rijo] .

[ʃa] → [sa]

[ʃako] → [sako] <garage>

[ʃi] → [si]

[ʃiba] → [sipa] <green turf>

[fo] → [so]
 [fo:to] → [so:to] <shortstop(in baseball)>
 [fu] → [su]
 [senfu] → [sensu] <athletic team>
 [kjo] → [kijo]
 [bo:ɛŋkjo:] → [poŋkijo] <telescope>
 [kju] → [ku] [kiju]
 [kju:ri] → [ku:ri] <cucumber>
 [haikju:] → [ajikiju] <ration (of food)>
 [rjo] → [rijo]
 [ɸurjo:] → [furijo] <bad person>
 [rju] → [riju]
 [dʒo:rju:] → [tʃo:riju] <do distilling>

However, the affricate [ts] becomes palatized, resulting in the pronunciation [tʃ].

[naŋagutsu] → [naŋakutʃu] <boot>
 [pantʃu] → [pantʃu:] <panties,briefs>
 [sotsuŋjo:] → [sotʃuŋijo] <graduation (from school)>

4.5. The reduction of pitch accent patterns

With all words over 2 syllables, the accent is placed on the second syllable from the end.

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Appendix : A List of Trukese Borrowings from Japanese

The list below is limited to lexical items which the informant reported that he still used. The words are written in a simplified phonetic alphabet script. The abbreviations “n.” (noun), “vi.” (intransitive verb), “vo.” (transitive verb), “e.” (exclamation), and “J.” (Japanese) are used.

A

ami n. <wire screening against insects> J. ami
ampaija n. <umpire (in baseball)> J. ampaija
aŋkatʃi n. <handkerchief> J. haŋkatʃi
apatopi n. <running long jump> J. habatobi
apura n. <grease> J. abura
apurazni vo. <grease>
appijo n. <announcement> J. happjo:
atake n. <plantation> J. hatake
atʃi n. <bee> J. hatʃi
ajikiju n. <ration (of food)> vi. <distribute> J. haikju:
ajinoko n. <half caste> J. ainoko

F

fasto n. <first base (in baseball)> J. ɸa:suto
firosikiji n. <cloth wrapper> J. ɸuroʃiki
funtosi n. <string-fastened loincloth (of Japanese type)> J. ɸundofi
furaji n. <fly ball (in baseball)> J. ɸurai
furaji:ni vo. <hit (a fly ball in baseball)>
furajipa:ŋ. <frying pan> J. ɸuraipan
furijo n. <bad person> J. ɸuryo:
futoŋ n. <mattress> J. ɸuton
fu:to n. <envelope (for mailing)> J. ɸu:to:

I

inakar n. <rural place> J. inaka
impaŋ n. <rubber stamp> J. imban
isogasiji vi. <be busy> J. isogaʃi:
ito n. <well> J. ido
ijakiju n. <baseball game> vi. <play baseball> J. jakju:
ijasaji n. <vegetables> J. jasai

K

- kafije n. ⟨teahouse⟩ J. kaḥeː
k'ama n. ⟨iron cooking pot⟩ J. kama
k'amarni vo. ⟨prepare food in a kkama⟩
kaṇṇof n. ⟨nurse⟩ J. kaṇṇoḥu
kaṇkoːtaṇ n. ⟨tour group⟩ vi. ⟨do sight-seeing in a group⟩ J. kaṇkoːdaṇ
kansoku n. ⟨radar station⟩ J. kansoku
kantoku n. ⟨boss⟩ J. kantoku
kantʃi n. ⟨executive officer⟩ J. kandzi
kapu n. ⟨stock company⟩ vi. ⟨form a pool (as with money)⟩ J. kabu
kappa n. ⟨raincoat⟩ J. kappa
kassoːro n. ⟨airport⟩ J. kassoːro
kasi n. ⟨steering wheel⟩ vi. ⟨steer⟩ J. kadzi
kasiːni vo. ⟨steer(a boat)⟩
kasoriṇ n. ⟨gasoline⟩ J. gasoriṇ
kaːto n. ⟨medical chart⟩ J. kaːdo
katoriseṇko n. ⟨mosquito coil (a repellent)⟩ J. katoriseṇkoː
kartʃe n. ⟨gauze⟩ J. gaːdze
katʃito n. ⟨cinema⟩ J. katsudoː
kajaku n. ⟨gunpowder⟩ J. kajaku
k'ajiṇun n. ⟨navy⟩ J. kaiṇuṇ
kajiru n. ⟨frog⟩ J. kaeru
kajitʃo n. ⟨cancellation of warning⟩ J. kaidzo
keṇkaṇ n. ⟨room at the main entrance to a house⟩ J. geṇkan
kikantʃu n. ⟨machine gun⟩ J. kikandzuː
kimpa vi. ⟨have a gold crown (of a tooth)⟩ J. kimba
kinsipakutaṇ n. ⟨atomic-bomb⟩ J. geṇʃibakudaṇ
kittʃo n. ⟨left-handed person⟩ J. gittʃo
kijattʃa n. ⟨catcher (in baseball)⟩ vi. ⟨be catcher⟩ J. kjattʃaː
koːeṇ n. ⟨park⟩ J. koːeṇ
koːkaṇ n. ⟨switchboard⟩ J. koːkan
kona n. ⟨powder⟩ J. kona
koṇkuri n. ⟨concrete⟩ J. koṇkuri
koːriː n. ⟨ice⟩ J. koːri
koro n. ⟨grounder(in baseball)⟩ J. goro
kosimaki n. ⟨woman's wrap-around undergarment⟩ J. kofimaki

ko:skake n. <chair> J. kofikake
kojasi n. <fertilizer> J. kojafi
kumi n. <an administrative district> J. kumi
k'umi n. <team (athletic)> J. kumi
ku:ri n. <cucumber> J. kju:ri
kuro:pu n. <baseball glove> J. guro:bu

M

maku: n. <curtain> J. maku
makuwauri n. <Cucumis melon> J. makuwauri
mame n. <bean> J. mame
manajita n. <chopping board> J. manaita
mappa n. <farce, comedy> vi. <play a farce> J. mappa
manneg n. <fountain pen> J. mannençitsu
mantfu: n. <soft sweet stuff> J. mandzu:
masi:ŋ n. <machine oil> J. maŋin
ma:sku n. <catcher's mask (in baseball)> J. masuku
ma:sto n. <mast> J. masuto
meŋane n. <spectacles, glasses> J. meŋane
meron n. <melon> J. meron
mitto n. <catcher's mitt (in baseball)> J. mitto
miso n. <bean paste> J. miso
mitfo n. <ditch> J. midzo
mitsuapura n. <hair oil> J. midzuabura

N

naŋakutŋu n. <boot> J. naŋagutsu
namajiki n. <impudence> vi. <be impudent> J. namaiki
naŋkiju n. <liner (in baseball)> J. naŋkju:
nape n. <cooking pan> J. nabe
nappua n. <green vegetables> J. nappa
nasu n. <eggplant> J. nasu
neŋi n. <Welsh onion> J. neŋi
netŋimawasi n. <screwdriver> J. nedzimawasi
netŋimawasi:ni vo. <screw (something) with a screwdriver>
nomi n. <chisel> J. nomi
nomi:ni vo. <apply a chisel to>

O

o:mrag n. ⟨home run (in baseball)⟩ J. ho:muran
 opi n. ⟨sash worn around the waist⟩ J. obi
 osiroji n. ⟨baby powder⟩ J. ofiroi
 osiroji:ni vo. ⟨apply baby powder to⟩
 osiruko n. ⟨a soup-like drink with dumplings in hot water⟩ J. ofiruko
 o:taji n. ⟨bandage⟩ J. ho:tai
 o:taji:ni vo. ⟨bandage⟩
 otopaji n. ⟨motorcycle⟩ J. o:tobai

P

pakajaro e. ⟨(in cursing) God damn you!⟩ J. bakajaro:
 pake n. ⟨feather fish lure⟩ J. bake
 pakutaŋ n. ⟨dynamite,bomb⟩ vi. ⟨use dynamite⟩ J. bakudan
 pakutaŋi: vo. ⟨dynamite or bomb (something)⟩
 panso:ko n. ⟨adhesive tape⟩ J. banso:ko:
 panso:ko:ni vo. ⟨apply adhesive tape to⟩
 pantfu: n. ⟨panties,briefs⟩ J. pantsu
 pakkiŋ n. ⟨fine,penalty⟩ J. bakkiŋ
 patta n. ⟨bat(baseball)⟩ J. batto
 pariki n. ⟨horsepower⟩ J. bariki
 patfiŋko n. ⟨slingshot⟩ J. patfiŋko
 patfiŋko:ni vo. ⟨use a slingshot against (someone)⟩
 pajikiŋ n. ⟨germ,bactirium⟩ J. baikiŋ
 pajijoriŋ n. ⟨violin⟩ J. baioriŋ
 perikaŋ n. ⟨hair clipper⟩ J. barikaŋ
 perikaŋi: vo. ⟨clip with a hair clipper⟩
 pimpoŋ n. ⟨pingpong ball⟩ J. pimpoŋ
 pintfo n. ⟨feces⟩ vi. ⟨defecate⟩ J. bendzo
 pintfuri n. ⟨a game⟩ J. bintsuri
 pit:ttfa n. ⟨pitcher (in baseball)⟩ J. pittfa:
 pisto:r n. ⟨pistol⟩ J. pisutoru
 pijojiŋ n. ⟨hospital⟩ J. bjo:iŋ
 poŋkijo n. ⟨telescope⟩ J. bo:ŋkjo:
 posto n. ⟨post office⟩ J. posuto
 po:r n. ⟨ball(in baseball)⟩ J. bo:ru
 po:takatopi vi. ⟨do the pole vault⟩ J. bo:takatobi
 po:tfu n. ⟨closely clipped hair⟩ vi. ⟨have clipped hair⟩ J. bo:dzu

R

raito n. <right field (in baseball)> J. raito
 razmeg n. <Chinese-style noodles with soup> J. razmen
 ramune n. <marbles> J. ramune
 ranniggu n. <sleeveless undershirt> J. ranniggu
 rapupa n. <bugle> vi. <blow a bugle> J. rappa
 rapupa:ni vo. <drink (something) directly from the bottle>
 ratfiwo n. <radio> J. radzio
 refto n. <left field (in baseball)> J. refto
 reko:to n. <record,disc> J. reko:do
 remontfuri n. <an obstacle race> J. remontsuri
 rensu n. <practice> J. renfu:
 rensu:ni vo. <help someone to practice>
 re:tfo:ko n. <refrigerator> J. re:dzo:ko
 rikugun n. <soldier (army)> J. rikugun
 rijaka n. <pullcart> J. rijaka:

S

sako n. <garage> J. fako
 samumotfi n. <large wooden spoon> J. famodzi
 santan n. <hop,step,and jump> vi. <do the hop,step,and jump> J. sandantobi
 saru n. <monkey> J. saru
 sarumata n. <undershorts> J. sarumata
 sasimi n. <sliced raw fish> J. safimi
 sasimi:ni vo. <make sashimi of>
 sasi n. <picture> vi. <take a picture> J. safin
 sasi:ni vo. <take a picture of>
 saxto n. <third base (in baseball)> J. saxdo
 satfumajimo n. <Japanese sweet potato> J. satsumaimo
 sekanto n. <second base (in baseball)> J. sekando
 sekiita n. <sluice board> J. sekiita
 ssej n. <one hundredth of a yen \Rightarrow cent> J. sen
 sense n. <teacher> J. sense:
 sense:ni vo. <be a teacher of (a class)>
 sensu n. <athletic team> J. sensu
 seri n. <water cress> J. seri
 simpun n. <newspaper> J. fimbun

sipa n. <green turf> J. fiba
 sipiringu n. <T-shirt> J. supuringgu
 sipu:n n. <spoon> J. supu:N
 siraik n. <strike (in baseball)> J. sutoraiiku
 sirippa n. <slippers> J. surippa
 skijaki n. <sukiyaki> J. sukijaki
 soiju n. <soy sauce> J. so:ju
 so:ko n. <warehouse> J. so:ko
 sorto n. <shortstop (in baseball)> J. so:to
 sotfunijo n. <graduation (from school)> J. sotsunjo:
 su: n. <vinegar> J. su
 suka:to n. <skirt> J. suka:to
 sumi n. <charcoal> J. sumi
 T
 tako n. <kite> J. tako
 takuwaj n. <pickled raddish> J. takuwan
 tama n. <electric light bulb> J. tama
 tamaniji n. <onion> J. tamanenji
 tamatfuki n. <game of marbles> vi. <play tamachuki> J. tamatsuki
 taggo n. <dumplings cooked in hot sugared water> J. daggo
 tapi n. <tabi> J. tabi
 taraji n. <washtub> J. tarai
 tawasi n. <scrubbing brush with a handle> J. tawafi
 tawasi:ni vo. <scrub (something) with a tawasi>
 tajiku n. <carpenter> J. daiku
 tajiku:ni vo. <do carpentry on>
 tajija n. <tire> J. taija
 tajija:ni vo. <put a tire on (something)>
 tajijo: n. <cannon> J. taiho:
 tenugi: n. <a towel(of Japanese style)> J. tenugui
 tempox n. <telegram> J. dempo:
 tempura n. <doughnut> J. tempura
 tenki n. <electric light> J. denki
 tenki:ni vo. <give light to>
 tentfi n. <battery (as in a flashlight)> J. dentfi
 te:preko:to n. <tape recorder> J. te:pureko:do

tebukuro n. <glove (other than in baseball)> J. tebukuro
 teppan n. <large sheet of iron > J. teppan
 tessiri n. <bench attached to the outer wall of a house> J. tesuri
 tiroŋkaŋ n. <drum (container)> J. doramukan
 topiŋ n. <teapot,kettle> J. dobiŋ
 torakku n. <truck> J. torakku
 torikko n. <a kind of tamachuki game> vi. <play torikko> J. torikko

T S

tfaŋke n. <game of scissors-stone-cloth> vi. <play chanke> J. dʒanken
 tʃampaŋ n. <garbage> J. dzampan
 tʃawaŋ n. <rice-bowl> J. tʃawan
 tʃikŋŋki n. <record player> J. tʃikuŋŋki
 tʃintori n. <a children's game> J. dʒintori
 tʃippu n. <foul tip (in baseball)> J. tʃippu
 tʃito:sa n. <automobile> J. dʒido:ʃa
 tʃo:ri n. <zori type of footwear> J. dzo:ri
 tʃo:riku n. <landing in force> vi. <make a landing in force> J. dʒo:riku
 tʃo:riku:ni vo. <make a landing in force on>
 tʃo:riju vi. <do distilling> J. dʒo:rju:
 tʃo:riju:ni vo. <distill (something, as to make alcohol)>
 tʃo:sa n. <investigation> vi. <conduct an investigation> J. tʃo:sa
 tʃo:sax:ni vo. <investigate>
 tʃukanta e. <caught!> J. tsukanda
 tʃu:moŋ n. <purchase order> vi. <make a purchase order> J. tʃu:mon
 tʃu:moŋi: vo. <make a purchase order for>
 tʃuri: vi. <cheat> J. dzurui
 tʃurikkoto n. <cheater> J. dzuruikoto

U

umeposi n. <pickled plum> J. umeboʃi
 unteŋ n. <driving> vi. <drive> J. unten
 unteŋi: vo. <drive (an automobile)>
 unto:kai n. <athletic meeting> J. undo:kai
 usaŋi n. <rabbit> J. usaŋi
 uton n. <noodles cooked in water or coconut milk> J. udon

NOTE

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Shinji SANADA (真田信治)

Department of Japanese Linguistics, Faculty of Letters, Osaka University
1-5, Machikaneyama-cho, Toyonaka-shi, Osaka-fu 560 JAPAN
SGW00066@niftyserve. or. jp

ミクロネシアのチュウク語における 日本語からの伝播語の音的特徴

真 田 信 治

(大阪大学)

キーワード

言語接触, 伝播語, 音の代用, チュウク語

概 要

日本による、いわゆる南洋群島の植民地統治は1914年から1945年までの30年間にわたった。その間の日本語と現地語との接触は、必然的に現地語への日本語の借用を招くことになった。そしてその中には日本ですでに使われなくなった（一般的でなくなった）ことばも多く生きている。本調査報告では、現ミクロネシア連邦のチュウク（かつてのトラック）諸島で話されているチュウク語に焦点を当てて、日本からの伝播語のリストを掲げ、その音的特徴、すなわち日本語の音がチュウク語のフィルターによって置き換えられる音の代用について分析した。